Numb. 233

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

——— *Sunt certa Piacula, quæ te*
Ter pure Lecto poterunt recreare Libello. Hor.

From *Tueſday October* 3. to *Thurſday October* 5. 1710.

From my own Apartment, October 4.

WHEN the Mind has been perplexed with anxious Cares and Paſſions, the beſt Method of bringing it to its uſual State of Tranquility, is, as much as we poſſibly can, to turn our Thoughts to the Adverſities of Perſons of higher Conſideration in Virtue and Merit than our ſelves. By this Means all the little Incidents of our own Lives, if they are unfortunate, ſeem to be the Effect of Juſtice upon our Faults and Indiſcretions. When thoſe whom we know to be excellent and deſerving of a better Fate are wretched, we cannot but reſign our ſelves, whom moſt of us know to merit a much worſe State than that we are placed in. For ſuch and many other Occaſions, there is one admirable Relation which one might recommend for certain Periods of one's Life, to touch, comfort, and improve the Heart of Man. *Tully* ſays, ſomewhere, The Pleaſures of an Huſbandman are next to thoſe of a Philoſopher. In like Manner one may ſay, (for methinks they bear the ſame Proportion one to another) the Pleaſures of Humanity are next to thoſe of Devotion. In both theſe latter Satisfactions, there is a certain Humiliation which exalts the Soul above its ordinary State. At the ſame Time that it leſſens our Value of our ſelves, it enlarges our Eſtimation of others. The Hiſtory I am going to ſpeak of is that of *Joſeph* in Holy Writ, which is related with ſuch Majeſtick Simplicity, that all the Parts of it ſtrike us with ſtrong Touches of Nature and Compaſſion, and he muſt be a Stranger to both who can read it with Attention, and not be overwhelmed with the Viciſſitudes of Joy and Sorrow. I hope it will not be a Prophanation to tell it one's own Way here, that they who may be unthinking enough to be more frequently Readers of ſuch Papers as this than of Sacred Writ, may be advertiſed, that the greateſt Pleaſures the Imagination can be entertained with are to be found there, and that even the Style of the Scriptures is more than Humane.

Joſeph, a beloved Child of *Iſrael*, became invidious to his elder Brethren for no other Reaſon but his ſuperior Beauty and Excellence of Body and Mind, inſomuch that they could not bear his growing Virtue, and let him live. They therefore conſpire his Death; but Nature pleaded ſo ſtrongly for him in the Heart of one of them, that by his Perſwaſion they determined rather to bury him in a Pit, than be his immediate Executioners with their own Hands. When thus much was obtained for him, their Minds ſtill ſoftened towards him, and they took the Opportunity of ſome Paſſengers to ſell him into *Egypt*. *Iſrael* was perſuaded by the Artifice of his Sons, that the Youth was torn to Pieces by Wild Beaſts: But *Joſeph* was ſold to Slavery, and ſtill expoſed to new Misfortunes, from the ſame Cauſe as before, his Beauty and his Virtue. By a falſe Accuſation he was committed to Priſon, but in Proceſs of Time delivered from it, in Conſideration of his Wiſdom and Knowledge, and made the Governor of *Pharaoh*'s Houſe. In this Elevation of his Fortune his Brothers were ſent into *Egypt* to buy Neceſſaries of Life in a Famine. As ſoon as they are brought into his Preſence, he beholds, but he beholds with Compaſſion, the Men who had ſold him to Slavery approaching him with Awe and Reverence. While he was looking over his Brethren, he takes a Reſolution to indulge himſelf in the Pleaſure of ſtirring their and his own Affections, by keeping himſelf concealed, and examining into the Circumſtances of their Family. For this End, with an Air of Severity, as a watchful Miniſter to *Pharaoh*, he accuſes them as Spies, who are come into *Egypt* with Deſigns againſt the State. This led them into the Account which he wanted of them, the Condition of their ancient Father and little Brother, whom they had left behind them. When he had learned that his Brother was living, he demands the bringing him to *Egypt*, as a Proof of their Veracity.

But it would be a vain and empty Endeavour to attempt laying this excellent Repreſentation of the Paſſions of Man in the ſame Colours as they appear in the Sacred Writ in any other Manner, or almoſt any other Words, than thoſe made uſe of in the Page it ſelf. I am obliged therefore to turn my deſigned Narration rather into a Comment upon the ſeveral Parts of that beautiful and paſſionate Scene. When *Joſeph* expects to ſee *Benjamin*, How natural and how forcible is the Reflection, *This Affliction is come upon us in that we ſaw the Anguiſh of our Brother's Soul* without Pity? How moving muſt it be to *Joſeph* to hear *Reuben* accuſe the reſt, that they would not hear what he pleaded in Behalf of his Innocence and Diſtreſs? He turns from them and weeps, but commands his Paſſion ſo far as to give Orders

Orders for binding one of them in the Preſence of the reſt, while he at Leiſure obſerved their different Sentiments and Concern in their Geſture and Countenance. When *Benjamin* is demanded in Bondage for ſtealing the Cup, With what Force and what Reſignation does *Judah* addreſs his Brother?

In what Words ſhall I ſpeak to my Lord; with what Confidence can I ſay any Thing? Our Guilt is but too apparent, we ſubmit to our Fate. *We are my Lord's Servants, both we and he alſo with whom the Cup is found.* When that is not accepted, How pathetically does he recapitulate the whole Story? And approaching nearer to *Joſeph*, delivers himſelf as follows; which, if we fix our Thoughts upon the Relation between the Pleader and the Judge, it is impoſſible to read without Tears.

SIR,

Let me intrude ſo far upon you even in the high Condition in which you are, and the miſerable one in which you ſee me and my Brethren, to inform you of the Circumſtances of us unhappy Men that proſtrate our ſelves before you. When we were firſt examined by you, you enquired, (for what Reaſon my Lord enquired we know not;) but you enquired whether we had not a Father or a Brother. We then acquainted you, that we had a Father, an old Man, who had a Child of his old Age, and had buried another Son whom he had by the ſame Woman. You were pleaſed to command us to bring the Child he had remaining down to you: We did ſo, and he has forfeited his Liberty. But my Father ſaid to us, you know that my Wife bare me Two Sons, one of them was torn in Pieces. If Miſchief befal this alſo, it will bring my Grey Hairs with Sorrow to the Grave. Accept, therefore, Oh my Lord! me for your Bond-man, and let the Lad return with his Brethren, that I may not ſee the Evil that ſhall come on my Father. Here *Joſeph*'s Paſſion grew too great for further Diſguiſe, and he reveals himſelf with Exclamations of Tranſport and Tenderneſs.

After their Recovery from their firſt Aſtoniſhment, his Brethren were ſeized with Fear for the Injuries they had done him; but how generouſly does he keep them in Countenance, and make an Apology for them: *Be not angry with your ſelves for ſelling me hither*; call it not ſo, but think Providence ſent me before you to preſerve Life.

It would be needleſs to go through all the Beauties of this ſacred Narrative; but any who ſhall read it, at an Hour when he is diſengaged from all other Regard or Intereſts than what ariſe from it, will feel the alternate Paſſion of a Father, a Brother, and a Son, ſo warm in him, that they will incline him to exert himſelf (in ſuch of thoſe Characters as happen to be his) much above the ordinary Courſe of his Life.

Advertiſements.

☞ The THIRD Volume of the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; on a large Letter in Octavo, being now in the Preſs; ſuch as pleaſe to ſubſcribe for it on a Royal Paper, to keep up their Sets, are deſired to ſend in their Names to Charles Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew near Stationers Hall. Where the Firſt and Second Volumes are to be deliver'd.

Morning Gowns for Men and Women, of Silk, Stuffs, and Callicoes (being the Goods of Perſons that failed) which were to be diſpoſed of at the Olive-Tree and Still, are now to be ſold at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up one Pair of Stairs, over-againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs; with a freſh Parcel at very low Rates, the Price being ſet on each Gown.

ALL Sorts of fine Silks and Mercery Goods for Blank Lottery Tickets, at 7 l. 10 s. a Ticket, and ſold as cheap as for Specie, at the Eagle and Child on Ludgate-Hill.

FOR Sale by the Candle, this Day, being the 5th Inſtant, at Garraway's Coffee-houſe in Exchange Alley, at Four in the Afternoon (only one Cask in a Lot) viz. 55 Hhds. and 8 half Hhds of excellent French (Margaux and Orion) Clarets, deep, bright, ſtrong, and of the true Flavour, neat and entire, perfect fine, and fit for Bottling; lying in a Vault under Clothworkers-Hall in Mincing-Lane. To be ſeen and taſted all Day till the Hour of Sale. To be ſold by Thomas Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane, between Tower-ſtreet and Crouched-Fryars.

THis is to give Notice, That Mr. Peters's Sale of Houſes in Glocester-ſtreet, of 1000 l. for Half a Crown, being near full, will be drawn within a Fortnight at fartheſt. Tickets are to be had at Mr. Halſey's, Ironmonger, in Wood-ſtreet; Mr. Farran's, Goldſmith, at the Blue Perriwig in Ruſſel-ſtreet, Govent-Garden; Mr. Chantrill, Shoemaker, at the Corner of Tooley-ſtreet; Mr. Lillie's, Perfumer, the Corner of Beauford-buildings; at Rice's Coffee-houſe in the Hay-Market; Mr. Smith's at the Black Spread-Eagle in Leadenhall Market; Mr. Wind's, Cheeſemonger, near Stocks Market; Mr. Rutter's in St. John Street; at the Two Houſes in Glocester-ſtreet; and all the other Places mentioned in the Propoſals.

THE Collection of Plate and choice Goods at Mrs. Fardell's, Milliner, the Corner of Silver-ſtreet, Bloomſbury-Market, not being deliver'd the Day before Michaelmas, as deſign'd, by reaſon of ſome juſt Hindrances; this is to give Notice, That the aboveſaid Diſtribution will certainly be made on Saturday the 14th Inſtant, to the Satisfaction of every Subſcriber, at the Man of Kent over againſt Turn-ſtile near Hand-alley in Holborn. If obſtructed, on the Tender of the Numbers, Money to be return'd. There are yet ſome Numbers to be diſtributed, either at the ſaid Mrs. Fardell's, or Mr. Tempeſt's, Goldſmith, over againſt the Caſtle Tavern in Drury-lane.

THE Widow Radford's Sale of Plate, and other Goods, at 1 s. each Ticket, 10 Blanks to one Prize; the higheſt Prize 7 l. the loweſt 5 s. A Coffee-Pot, Value 7 l. a Salver 5 l. a Mug 3 l. a Porringer 2 l. 10 s. Silver Salts, large Spoons, Sets of Tea-Spoons, Snuff Boxes, Mens Buckles, Gold Rings, and ſeveral other Things in Plate. To be drawn in a Fortnight. Tickets may be had at Mr. Bradſhaw's againſt Goldſmith's-hall in Foſter-lane, at Mr. Molton's at the Three-Tuns in Long acre, and at the Widow Radford's over-againſt St. Clement's Church in the Strand, where the Goods may be ſeen.

ONE Hundred Pounds for Half a Crown, or Propoſals for ſeveral Prizes, by Mr. William Morris, a fine Diamond Croſs ſet tranſparent, with a Button all Brilliants, Plate, Atlaſſes or Silk, ſix Silk Night-Gowns, and ſeveral other valuable Things. It is propoſed to deliver out by Subſcription Two thouſand five hundred Tickets, in which there is 177 Prizes, the higheſt 100 l. the loweſt 11 s. and 13 Blanks to a Prize. Tickets to be had at Mrs. Pinkney's, Milliner, in Tavi-ſtock-ſtreet, next to the Cheeſemonger's in Southampton-ſtreet in Bedford-Buildings; Mr. Andrew's, Glover, at the Ball and Glove in Charles-court in the Strand, near York-Buildings; Mr. Green's in Cary-lane near Goldſmiths-Hall; Mr. Barnard's, Glover ſeller, at Mr. Tompion's the Corner of Water-lane, Fleet-ſtreet; Mr. Stoker's, Bookſeller, at the Key and Bible againſt the Mews Gate, Charing-Croſs. Note, The Goods are to be ſeen at Mr. Andrew's aforeſaid, and will certainly be drawn on Tueſday October 17, out of Two Wheels by Two Pariſh-Boys, at the Great Room in York-Buildings: And if not drawn, the Money to be returned.

THE Land-Adventure; 400 l. for 5 s. or the Sale of a Freehold-Eſtate of 51 l. 13 s. per Annum, ſituate at Graveſend and Troſtcliff, in the County of Kent, and 531 l. 10 s. in ready Money, by Way of Parcels, 19 Blanks to 1 Parcel; the Value of the whole Eſtate and Money being 1761 l. 10 s. The Proprietors having deliver'd out a conſiderable Number of Tickets, did give Notice in the publick Papers, That the ſaid Sale, if full, ſhould be drawn on the 27th Inſtant, but contrary to their Expectation, there wanting 355 l. to compleat the ſame, they do promiſe, that ſo ſoon as the Tickets amounting to that Sum ſhall be delivered out, the ſame ſhall be drawn in the faireſt Manner, out of Two Wheels, by Two Pariſh-Boys, and in the Preſence of Five very credible Perſons who will be appointed Truſtees, for the Satisfaction of the Adventurers. And the Proprietors doubt not but the ſame will be ready to be drawn in a very ſhort Time, of which they will give Notice in moſt of the publick Papers; and deſire all thoſe who intend to be Adventurers, to be ſpeedy in taking out their Tickets, which are to be had, at 5 s. each, (with Propoſals at large) at Poole's Coffee-houſe without Biſhopſgate, Capt. Henſhaw's within Biſhopſgate, Wright's Coffee-houſe in Aldersgate-ſtreet, Mr. Powell's at the Bee-hive on St. Mary-hill near Billingſgate, Mr. Timothy Prieſt's at the Black Lion in Tower-ſtreet, Mr. Langly's, a Hatter, near the Three Tuns in Whitecroſs ſtreet, Mr. Risby's, Bookſeller, Wincheſter-ſtreet; Mr. Ray's, a Punch-houſe, in Southampton-ſtreet; the Bell Coffee-houſe in King-ſtreet, Weſtminſter, Bird's Coffee-houſe in the New Palace-Yard, Weſtminſter; Mr. Baſſett at the Red Croſs and Cheſhire-Cheeſe in Holborn, the London Coffee-houſe in Threadneedle-ſtreet near the Royal-Exchange, the Royal-Hoſpital Coffee-houſe at Greenwich, Mrs. Groſſwell's at the Poſt-houſe in Eaſt-Smithfield, and at the White-Lion-Inn at Graveſend.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertiſements are taken in.